

Talking Points
Mississippi Energy Policy Institute
Tuesday, December 15, 2009

- I appreciate the hard work done by the committees and the staff since this group first met in July.
- The work done, the recommendations, and the vast amount of work that lies ahead will establish a strong foundation for smart energy (and economic development) policy in Mississippi.
- Again, I want to be clear that the Mississippi Energy Policy Institute needs to be a permanent institution, so Mississippi energy policy can be guided and consistent with our other economic development goals – better and more jobs and better quality of life.
- My goal and the Mississippi Energy Policy Institute’s goal of having energy policy that encourages economic growth are in stark contrast to the energy policy goals of the Obama Administration and of many leaders in Congress.
- In Mississippi, we understand that affordable, abundant, American energy is in the best interests of economic growth. Policy ideas coming from the leadership in

Washington will instead limit options and make energy more expensive.

- This means policy that encourages, and doesn't restrict, the aggressive development of a diversified portfolio of energy resources:
 - o Including building a new generation of nuclear power plants so we can expand this emissions-free baseload source of electricity while creating thousands and thousands of direct jobs and support jobs in components manufacturing, and,
 - o Including finding new uses for the abundant, cheap coal/lignite reserves that our country possesses. Technology improvements are giving us more options for coal, and the Mississippi Power plant that should be built in Kemper County will be a real-life example of new and better technology, and,
 - o Including natural gas and oil as other energy sources that are American, abundant, and can create loads of jobs. If we have it and it's affordable and responsible, we need to produce it, and,
 - o Including renewable energy that provides high quality and economically competitive fuels. With a

national renewable fuels standard already in place, Mississippi needs to position itself to be a major supplier of quality renewable fuels derived from the abundance of forest and agricultural products in Mississippi, and,

- o Including more energy efficiency. The cheapest way to expand our energy capacity is to use less energy to the maximum extent we can. While cars and buildings have become much more efficient as technology has improved, we need to continue to find ways to live comfortably and be productive while using less energy.
- The initial policy recommendations are consistent with good energy policy for economic growth. I'm proud of the foundation that has been laid with this report and look forward to the future work of the Mississippi Energy Policy Institute as a guide to Mississippi's energy future.